

**Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County  
Head Start/Early Head Start Program  
2015-2016 Annual Report**

Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) is a child development program serving children residing in the towns of Stamford, Darien and Greenwich. The HS/EHS program provides high quality early childhood comprehensive services to children, ages 0 to 5. The program assists families in setting and attaining goals for themselves and their children. The following reflects the program’s funded enrollment, funding sources and activities during the fiscal year 2014-2015.

- Funding sources:

Federal

Head Start	Early Head Start	Delegate
\$1,683,566	\$986,689	\$239,161

State Department of Education:

\$188,771 for an Enhancement Grant which provided full-day, school-year services for 35 Head Start children and 34 Delegate children.

\$161,258 for an Expansion Grant which provided full-day full-year services for 20 State Head Start children.

\$31,818 for a Link Grant to support math and literacy enrichment.

State Department of Education School Readiness:

\$165,858 funds to extend 3 part-day, part-year classes into full-day, full-year classes.

Private:

\$96,689 grant from Pitney Bowes for extended day services.

- Financial expenditures: In FY 2014-2015 it cost \$3,156,008 to operate the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The single largest expense item was salaries and fringe benefits which accounted for 62.7% of the program costs. The next largest item was the delegate sub-contract \$310,418 which represented 9.3% of the total expenditures.

CLC prepares an annual budget each spring with input from the Head Start Director, Policy Council and the Board of Directors. Monthly variance reports are reviewed by the Head Start Director. In addition, monthly variance reports and budget projections are presented to the Finance Committee of the Board and Policy Council on a monthly basis. Financial decisions are based on the organization’s long-term goals and objectives. This rigorous oversight of the financial records has provided the agency with a strong understanding of its

financial position and allowed it to adapt, where necessary, in order to ensure a fiscally sound future.

CLC audited numbers for the year ending June 30, 2015 had received the following statement in the Blum Shapiro audit report “In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Childcare Learning Centers, as of June 30, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America”.

- The program served 244 children in Head Start which included 35 children from the delegate and 54 children in Early Head Start during the fiscal year of 2015-2016. The average monthly enrollment was 100% for Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Ninety-nine percent of Head Start and 100% of Early Head Start children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care. One hundred percent of the children in Head Start and Early Head Start received dental exams. The program coordinated services for 32 children suspected with disabilities in Head Start and 9 children in Early Head Start.
- One hundred and twenty seven children entered kindergarten. Program collaborated with the Stamford Public Schools (SPS) and After-school programs in the community to facilitate transition for all children. The SPS Preschool Curriculum Associate along with the Instructional Coordinators prepares a portfolio on each child transitioning into kindergarten. This provides the Kindergarten Teachers a complete understanding of each child school readiness. The portfolio contains the result of the ESI (Early Screening Intervention), the Home Language Survey, the SPS Readiness Screening and the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment Summary Form. The program hosted Kindergarten Nights to educate and assist parents with the process of registering their children to elementary schools.
- Child Outcomes results using the Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) Continuum assessment showed that in the spring of 2016, ninety-one percent of the children ages 4 and 5 met or exceeded age-level expectations in the area of Language Development and Literacy, and 80% met or exceeded age-level expectations in the area of Mathematics. The TSG results for the 3 year-olds indicated that 95% met or exceeded age-level expectations in the area of Language Development and Literacy, and 88% met or exceeded age-level expectations in the area of Mathematics. In the domain of social emotional development over 96% of the 4 and 100% of the 3 year-olds used words to express emotions and feelings. The teachers provided enrichment activities targeting children entering kindergarten. The Child Outcomes results for Early Head Start demonstrated that 83% of the infants and toddlers engaged in positive relationships and interactions with adults, 87% showed curiosity and motivation in exploring the world around them.
- The program developed, incorporated and aligned the educational domains required by the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF), the

Teaching Strategies Gold and the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CTELDS) into its 2016 Head Start Framework for curriculum development and lesson planning. The program has established school readiness goals aligned with the ELOF, the CTELDS, and the Stamford Public Schools kindergarten expectations to enhance the knowledge and skills that children are needed to gain upon entering kindergarten. The progress toward meeting the established goals was determined by aggregating and analyzing child assessment data at multiple points across the year.

- The program provided many parent involvement activities such as Diversity Week, Fitness (Healthy Bodies), Math and Kindergarten Nights, Parent education programs on child development, child health and nutrition, parent's rights and stress management. The program offered other opportunities such as literacy training and continuing education for adults, volunteering and leadership by involving parents in the decisions-making of the program and other community initiatives like PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute) and PEP (People Empowering People). The Head Start program implements the RULER Mood Meter, a tool to build self and social awareness by talking about feeling. RULER is supported by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.
- CLC Head Start/ Early Head Start had their annual monitoring review conducted by the Office of Head Start in November 2015 on Environmental Health and Safety and May 2016 on Comprehensive Services and School Readiness. The outcomes were excellent. The program is currently in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policy requirements related to the Head Start Program Performance Standards and the Head Start Act.

Submitted by:

Imelda D-Luc, Head Start Director, Fall 2016